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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4304

INFO RUEHXX/ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS AMMAN 007277

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PTER](#) [PHUM](#) [ASEC](#) [IZ](#) [JO](#)

SUBJECT: SAJIDA AL-RISHAWI SENTENCED TO DEATH

REF: A. 05 AMMAN 8828

[1](#)B. AMMAN 4685

[1](#)C. AMMAN 2118

(SBU) Jordan's State Security Court (SSC) on September 21 sentenced seven persons to hang, including would-be suicide bomber Sajidah al-Rishawi, for the November 2005 Amman Hotel bombings (ref A). Rishawi, an Iraqi, confessed on Jordan TV days after the bombings, and then pled not guilty in early July. She is the first woman ever to be sentenced to death by the SSC. The other six defendants (Othman Ismail Dalimi; Hiam Hassan; Walid Hassan; Nihad Rishawi; Karim Jassim Fahdawi; and Mazen Mohammad Shehadeh) were tried in absentia, and are believed to be in Iraq. The decision will be reviewed by the Court of Cassation, Jordan's highest. If the verdict is upheld, the King must sign a death warrant before the execution can take place.  
Rubinstein